

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 10780 131849Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 STRE-00 OIC-02 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13
ISO-00 /168 W

-----002119 131907Z /41

P 131836Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2025
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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USMTN
ACTION STR PASS ELECTRICALLY
STR PASS CODEL

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, KS, DA
SUBJECT: US-ROK DISCUSSION ON U.S. FISH REQUESTS

1. USMTN DEL (MALISH AND PEASE, US FISHERIES ATTACHE,
COPENHAGEN) HELD SHORT BILATERAL WITH ROK DEL (LEE, KWON)
TO DISCUSS US REQUESTS OF KOREA IN THE FISH SECTOR. WE
NOTED THAT WE WERE INTERESTED IN ONLY TWO SPECIES, HERRING
AND POLLOCK, WHOLE, FROZEN FILLETS AND ROES (KOREAN TARIFF
ITEMS 03.01.06.07, 03.01.06.12, 03.01.06.13, 03.01.08.00),
AND DESIRED A TARIFF REDUCTION FROM 30 TO 15 PERCENT ALONG
WITH THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRETIONARY KOREAN LICENSING. WE
NOTED THAT AN EX-OUT FOR HERRING AND POLLOCK FILLETS AND
ROES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IF THAT WOULD MAKE REQUEST EASIER
TO SATISFY.

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2. COUNSELLOR LEE EXPLAINED THAT POLLOCK WAS A STAPLE OF
THE KOREAN DIET DURING WINTER MONTHS, AND POINTED OUT THAT
KOREAN FLEETS WERE DRIVEN FROM RUSSIAN FISHERIES ZONE TO
ALASKAN WATERS. HE RECALLED A RECENT KOREAN NEWSPAPER
ARTICLE THAT POLLOCK WAS LIKELY TO BE IN SHORT SUPPLY. IN
CONTRAST TO WHAT WE TOOK AS A PERSONALLY POSITIVE VIEW BY

LEE, KWON STRESSED THE DIFFICULTIES OF MAKING A 50 PERCENT REDUCTION ON A TARIFF WHERE, HE ALLEGED, THE U.S. PRODUCT WAS MUCH CHEAPER THAN THAT LANDED BY KOREAN VESSELS. WE REPLIED THAT WE SUSPECTED U.S. WAGE RATES MORE THAN OFFSET KOREAN FLEET EXPENSES FOR FUEL AND SUPPLIES. IN ANY CASE, BOTH SPECIES ARE NORMALLY SOLD ON THE BASIS OF A WORLD MARKET PRICE. WE SUGGESTED STAGING THE REDUCTION INTO EFFECT OVER SOME TIME PERIOD IF AN IMMEDIATE HALFING OF THE DUTY WOULD BE TOO SEVERE. KOREAN DEL PROMISED TO BRING OUR CONCERNS TO THEIR AUTHORITIES. ON THE GENERAL MATTER OF DISCUSSING ROK'S MAY 1 LICENSING LIBERALIZATION IN SPECIFIC TERMS AND COMPARING THEM TO U.S. REQUESTS, LEE AGAIN CLAIMED HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED DDCUMENTATION OR INSTRUCTIONS FROM SEOUL.

3. DRAFTED BY MALISH. MCDONALD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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